

**OPENING ADDRESS BY**  
**DATO' BAHARIN BIN DATO' ABDUL HAMID**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARINE, MARINE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA**  
**AT THE OPENING OF 12TH COOPERATION FORUM**  
**PO HOTEL, SEMARANG, INDONESIA**  
**ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

Mr. Agus Purnomo, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Republic of Indonesia;  
Ms. Quah Ley Hoon, the Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore;

*(Greetings)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Very Good Morning and "Salam Sejahtera" from Malaysia

On behalf of the Malaysian Delegation, i would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the organizers, the Directorate General of Sea Transportation for hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Forum under the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Thank you very much for the excellent arrangement and hospitality accorded our delegation especially during our arrival in Semarang yesterday morning.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our warm greetings to the distinguished guests, user States and user of the Straits for attending this 12th Cooperation Forum. Your presence is crucial and your interest portrays your supports and commitments towards the continuous efforts by the Littoral States in maintaining the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore through the Cooperative Mechanism.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolence to the government and people of Indonesia on the earthquake incident in Kota Ambon, Maluku

on 26 September 2019 with the loss of some lives. Our thought and prayer are with you in these trying times.

*(Introduction)* Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

The importance of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore for the international trade is inevitable. Through the IMO initiatives, both straits known as the Straits, have been endorsed as one of the critical international shipping lane in the world. The number of ships passed through the Straits is on increasing trend, and in 2018, more than eighty thousands (80,000) ships, reported by the Malaysia Vessel Traffic Service under the Straits mandatory ship reporting system also known as STRAITREP. Ships transiting the Straits carries various types of cargoes with an estimated of one third of the total international trade. The needs of source of energy especially for the industry to continue to grow, have contributed to a massive global oil movement with more than 16 million barrels crude oil transited through the Straits each year. Therefore, it is vital for the littoral States to implement best practices and initiatives under the Cooperative Mechanism to ensure that safety of navigation and marine environment protection needs are met effectively and efficiently.

The Co-operation Forum since its' been formed is one of the three key pillars of the Co-operative Mechanism. The other two are the Aids to Navigation Fund which provides financial assistance to maintain the critical aids to navigation in the Straits; and the Project Co-ordination Committee to co-ordinate the implementation of the Straits projects, while the key feature of this Co-operation Forum is to provide a platform where the littoral states, user States and users of the Straits can meet, exchange views, and explore further collaborations.

*(Malaysia's Updates)* Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to share with you that on effort of Malaysia towards safety of navigation and marine environment protection, Malaysia were participated on IMO 2020 Sulphur Cap, Regional agreement on Ballast Water Management, ASEAN MoU on Non-Convention Sized Ships and ASEAN MoU on The Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Malaysia also just celebrate the World Maritime Week Malaysia 2019 that was held at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre start on 10th September until 13th September 2019 and launched by Minister of Transportation Malaysia with theme “Empowering Women in the Maritime Community”.

Malaysia wish to emphasize that we are committed in participating in the initiatives and projects under this Forum. Safety of navigation and marine environment protection for shipping has been one of our primary agenda. Several projects under the Forum have been completed and some is still ongoing.

Phase 2 Joint Hydrographic Survey Project has ongoing, its begin after the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held in October 2017 during the 10<sup>th</sup> Cooperative Forum session at Malaysia. As in previous Phase 1 Joint Hydrographic Survey Project, the purpose is to enhance safety of navigation in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and the Straits, by acquiring comprehensive and accurate hydrographical data to produce an Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC). Planned areas scheduled for Malaysian waters for year 2018 has been completed and the whole project is to be completed in 2021 or earlier.

*(Challenges)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite our ongoing efforts to improve the safety of navigation and marine environment protection, there are a few challenges ahead of us. And like any captain and its crew

sailing towards storms and rough seas, we must prepare and equipped ourselves to prevent or minimize the risks.

MARPOL Annex VI's implementation is the latest challenge that needs to be addressed. As the Straits is the main route of vessels, we should be seen as proactively ensuring the protection of the environment with a healthy and safe air quality according to IMO standards of 0.50% limit for the Sulphur content of ships' fuel oil, which will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Ships are increasingly using systems that rely on digitization, integration, and automation, which calls for cyber risk management on board. As technology continues to develop, information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) onboard ships are being networked together and more frequently connected to the internet. This brings greater risk of unauthorized access or malicious attacks to ships' systems and networks. Risks may also occur from personnel accessing systems on board, for example by introducing malware via removable media. Therefore, it is hoped that experts in cyber risk management who might be with us today can deliberate and share ideas, and to further provide appropriate training, to ensure that cyber threats in the security aspects of navigation can be mitigated and prevented effectively and efficiently.

These are just a few challenges. I am sure there are many awaiting or currently faced by us and it is up to us to find the best solutions for mitigation and prevention measures.

*(Commitment and Ending)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

A lot more can be done to fully realize the spirit of Article 43 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). I sincerely hope user States, users of the Straits and other stakeholders can come forward to assist the Littoral States in our efforts to keep the Straits of Malacca and Singapore safe and open for navigation as well as to

protect its marine environment. Following to it, I would like to reiterate that Malaysia is committed to ensure that the Straits of Malacca remain open for international shipping and is safe for navigation

I am also grateful take an opportunity to congratulate to the Malacca Strait Council for their 50th anniversary for its continuous support for the Cooperative Mechanism and also to the littoral States to play our role to ensure the safety of navigation and to protect the marine environment along the straits.

Ending on this note, Malaysia would like to thank again the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 12th Cooperation Forum and the continuous support and commitment from the user States, user of the Straits and stakeholders towards the Cooperative Mechanism. I wish all delegates fruitful deliberations over the next 2 days.

Thank you very much.